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Effects of atomic radiation

Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Effects of atomic radiation

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 18 of draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to strengthen support for the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation within existing resources, particularly with regard to the deputization of the Secretary of the Scientific Committee, the avoidance of disruptions in staffing and the increase of operational costs in the case of a further increase in membership, and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on these issues.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019 and to the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 11, Environment, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018–2019. They also relate to section 14, Environment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019.

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III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. With regard to implementation of operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, the secretariat of the Scientific Committee, which has staffing resources for two professional staff members (P-4 and D-1), would be strengthened by reclassifying the existing P-4 post to a P-5 level as Deputy Secretary.

4. The incumbent of the proposed P-5 post would perform the duties of the Secretary during periods of absence of the D-1, including organizing the annual session of the Scientific Committee, sending notes verbales and invitation letters to representatives of Member States, meeting high-level diplomats (e.g. members of the informal contact group), making decisions as regards the budget and representing the secretariat at official meetings.

5. As regards the increase in operational costs in the case of a further increase in membership, given that the modalities and timing for possible increases in membership are not specified, the Secretary-General would issue the related budgetary implications when such decisions are made.

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

6. To implement the requests contained in operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, additional requirements in the amount of $24,900 under section 14, Environment, would arise annually starting 1 January 2019 related to the proposed reclassification of one P-4 established post to P-5. The details of these additional requirements are provided in the table below.

(United States dollars)

	Additional resource requirements (annual)
Section 14, Environment	
Posts	24 900
Total	**24 900**

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2018–2019

7. No provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 for the implementation of the activities requested under operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution. It is not possible at present to identify activities within the relevant section of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional resources in the amount of $24,900 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019.

VI. Contingency fund

8. Under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget.

VII. Conclusion and action requested of the General Assembly

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.4/73/L.9, additional resource requirements in the amount of $24,900 under section 14, Environment, would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 related to the proposed reclassification of one P-4 established post to P-5. The amount of $24,900 would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 to be approved by the Assembly and, as such, would represent a charge against the contingency fund.

10. In addition, an amount of $4,400 would also be required under section 36, Staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.